

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at 5:15 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Sherry Steenbock, Jim Haskins, Duane "Snake" Pierce, Jerry Polus, Donald Bettine, John Walschinski
EXCUSED: Bernie Erickson, Joe Witkowski, John Maino, Troy Ness, Delores Pierce

****Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1190**

1. Call Meeting to Order:

The meeting was called to order by CVSO Jerry Polus at 5:15 p.m.

2. Invocation by Jim Haskins.

3. Approve/Modify Agenda:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SHERRY STEENBOCK, SECONDED BY JOHN WALSCHINSKI TO APPROVE. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Approve/Modify Minutes of April 19, 2011:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DONALD BETTINE, SECONDED BY JIM HASKINS TO APPROVE. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Discussion re: Memorial Day Ceremonies:

Don Bettine reported that colors will line up at 6:00 p.m. on Memorial Day (Monday, May 30) at Admiral Flatley Park and the ceremony will begin at 6:30 p.m. Buglers will be provided by Notre Dame Academy and Mike Flanahan from the VA will be the guest speaker. After Flanahan speaks, there will be a procession along the river to a point where they will throw the wreaths in and then the firing squad will fire and the buglers will play Taps.

Duane Pierce stated that the Vietnam Vets will hold their annual ceremony at 8:00 a.m. on Memorial Day behind the Neville Public Museum and will then participate in the De Pere Memorial Day Parade. Pierce also indicated that there will be a ceremony at Heritage Hill at 10:00 or 11:00 a.m. that day.

It was also reported that various veterans' organizations will be placing flags on the graves of vets at Fort Howard Memorial Park on Saturday, May 20, 2011. Flags will also be placed on graves at Allouez Cemetery on May 18, 2011.

6. Discussion re: Brown County Fair (August 20, 2011):

Jerry Polus reported that he had contacted the director of the Pulaski High School band with regard to playing at the Fair. The band director indicated that the band is very active in the summer and gave a tentative "yes" to playing on Saturday, August 20. However, the band director inquired if there might be any sort of stipend available to help cover the cost of the bus they will need to rent to bring the band to Green Bay as well as some type of food vouchers for the kids. Jerry will double check that the stage is large enough to accommodate the band.

The other detail that needs to be worked out is door prizes. Jerry will encourage John Maino to attend the next meeting to see if he is able to secure any prizes. A decision will then be made with regard to prizes and if the mugs, tee shirts and stickers will be used. A discussion was also held with regard to refreshments. It was decided to do away with the cookies and doughnuts, but

still offer lemonade and Jerry will confirm with the Fair Board that they will provide this. Jerry will also speak with Bernie Erickson with regard to being the master of ceremonies and he will also confirm that County Executive Troy Streckenbach will give the opening remarks. Troy Ness will assist with the posting of colors. Jerry will invite Ron Van Dyke to the next meeting to get all of these details worked out and also to discuss public relations efforts to get the word out. Jerry felt we need stronger support in the form of publication for this event.

John Walschinski reported that he had spoken with Chuck Ramsey last year who indicated that he would be interested in promoting this event. A suggestion was made to see if Chuck would also consider being the master of ceremonies. Walschinski will speak with him in this regard and report back at the next meeting.

Jerry would like to see all Committee members attend the next meeting so that the final arrangements can be made and publicity can begin.

7. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus:

Jerry reported on the Veterans' Meet and Greet sponsored by the Duck Creek VFW on May 15. He felt the attendance was okay for the first year, but hoped this would increase in the future. There were a number of different veteran organizations represented. It was nicely set up and the food was great. The Duck Creek VFW plans to make this an annual event.

Another event coming up is the Supermarket of Veterans Benefits which will be held June 3 & 4 at the National Guard Armory in Green Bay (see attached). Jerry is working with the State VA on this and a good attendance is expected. Don Bettine will man the information/welcome table during both days of the event and the Duck Creek VFW will run a food concession.

Jerry also reported on Veterans Court and stated that he has been meeting every few weeks with those involved in establishing this and the planning is moving forward, but he indicated there is a lot of work to be done and details to be worked out. He will continue to keep this Committee advised of the progress.

Jerry concluded his report by stating that the next Honor Flight will be leaving on June 9, 2011 and will include 12 veterans from Brown County.

8. Report from Committee Members Present (Bettine, Haskins, Maino, Ness, Pierce, Steenbock, Walschinski & Witkowski):

-Walschinski reported that he had recently run into his 1st Sgt. from the National Guard whom he hasn't seen in a number of years. He is 82 years old and has recently been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and John asked that we keep him in our prayers.

-Jim Haskins shared a pamphlet he picked up recently regarding Dry Hootch Coffee House in Milwaukee, a coffee house catering to veterans. More information can be obtained from their website: www.dryhootch.org.

-Duane Pierce stated that May 8 was the 46th anniversary of the day Commander James David La Haye was shot down in Veitnam and he has still not be found. Duane asked that we remember this gentlemen and his family in our prayers.

-Don Bettine stated that he had recently received an e mail from the VFW regarding a man who has undertaken a project of locating and recording veteran's graves in the State of Wisconsin. He will try to find more information on this for the next meeting.

-Steenbock indicated that three new certificates had been sent out

9. Such other Matters as Authorized by Law. None.

10. **Adjourn.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM HASKINS, SECONDED BY DUANE PIERCE TO ADJOURN
AT 5:57 P.M. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The next meeting will be held on June 21, 2011 at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary



Veterans: Get the benefits you've earned!

Supermarket of Veterans Benefits

Friday, June 3, 2011
Noon to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 4, 2011
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

National Guard Armory
800 N Military Ave
Green Bay, WI. 54303

At this free, "one-stop-shop", veterans can:

- Learn about eligibility criteria for state veteran's benefits, programs and services.
- Apply for state and federal benefits.
- Receive information about loans, education benefits and employment opportunities.
- Get assistance in obtaining military medals and records.
- Obtain information about assisted living and nursing home care.
- Pre-register for burial in state veterans' cemeteries.
- Learn about the wide range of benefits and services available including health care, loans, compensation and pension, education, job training, aging services, funeral honors, and more!

Family members of veterans and deployed service members are encouraged to attend.

Admission is free

For more information call the Brown County Veterans Service Officer at (920) 448-4450, your local County Veterans Service Office, or call the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-800-WIS-VETS (1-800-947-8387) or visit www.WisVets.com for more about WDVA.

